



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS

One Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001-1431 • 202/408-5505 • FAX 202/408-8072
Resource Center on Educational Equity State Education Assessment Center

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

DEC - 7 1994

December 7, 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY


Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Comments on PR Docket No. 93-61

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Attached is a joint petition from national organizations and key individuals concerned about providing affordable and efficient connections for schools, libraries, and other learning institutions. We ask that you give serious consideration to our request. Your decision will affect the delivery of education-enhancing services to millions of students and other learners. It will also have a direct bearing on whether schools and libraries reach the goal expressed by President Clinton and Vice President Gore to connect schools and libraries to the NII. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Gordon M. Ambach
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: William F. Caton, FCC Secretary

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

2 copies

JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

RECEIVED

DEC - 7 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

As representatives of our nation's leading education and library organizations, we ask that the FCC not disrupt the present or future use of the 900 MHz frequency band by Part 15 products. Adoption of the proposed Part 90 rules would cause serious injury to Part 15 manufacturers, vendors and consumers, and is not in the public interest.

At all levels, the ability of students, teachers and parents to communicate among each other and to access school and public on-line resources and the Internet will be a critical part of education in the information age.

Part 15 devices using the 900 MHz frequency band have the potential to provide the breadth of services we need with a cost/value relationship that schools and libraries can afford. To limit the usefulness of these networks would be to seriously impact the public interest in a very wide variety of areas. In 1985, the Commission adopted rules which permitted unlicensed spread spectrum operations in the 902-928 MHz band subject to specified power limits. Almost immediately, manufacturers began exploring potential new applications for spread spectrum technology.

In response to the Commission's encouragement, Part 15 manufacturers have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the research, development and production of new commercial and consumer products. We believe the Commission's actions were, and continue to be in the public interest. Technological advances have created the ability to provide low cost, reliable, Part 15 wireless communications products and services for all public and private sectors of our economy. Whether these services are communications from a wireless phone, the use of wireless modems in schools, colleges, universities, and libraries, or the provision of data to children with computers in schools which are not wired for computer networks, the public interest and our economy are being well served.

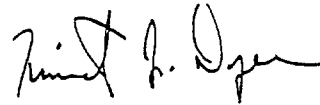
There are other locations on the spectrum suitable for LMS technology, locations that will not impact Part 15 devices. To foreclose the benefits of Part 15 products and services in order to encourage investment in LMS technology that is outdated is, therefore, not in the public interest.

(Signature pages attached)

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



William Wright, Jr.
Consortium for School Networking



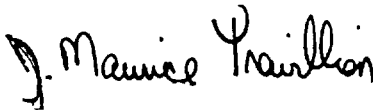
Tim Dyer
**National Association of
Secondary School Principals**



Drew W. Albritten
**Coalition of Adult
Education Organizations**



Lewis A. Rhodes
**American Association of School
Administrators**



J. Maurice Travillion
**Chief Officers of State Library
Agencies**



Barbara J. Yentzer
National Education Association



Gordon Ambach
**Council of Chief State School
Officers**

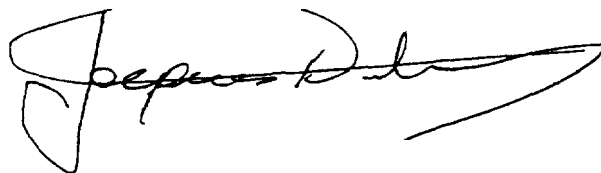


Martha Matzke
American Federation of Teachers

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



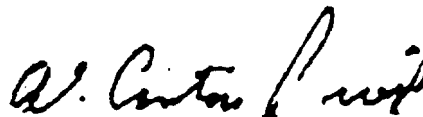
P. Kenneth Komoski
Educational Products Informational
Exchange (EPIE) Institute



Jacques Dubois
Prince George's Community College



Bonnie L. Bracey
Signing as an individual member of the
National Information Infrastructure
Advisory Council



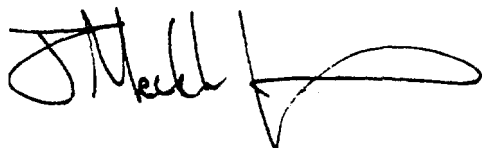
Curtiss Priest
Center for Information,
Technology, and Society



Steven Hodas
Sterling Software/NASA K-12
Internet Initiative



Christopher Dede
George Mason University



James A. Mecklenburger
Global Village Schools Institute

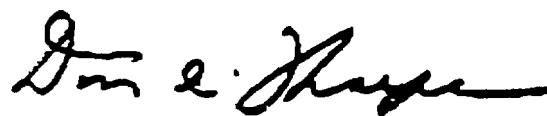


Ilene Rosenthal
The Lightspan Partnership, Inc.

**LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM
SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS**



David Byer
Software Publishers Association



Don I. Tharpe
Association of School Business
Officials International

LIST OF SIGNERS TO JOINT PETITION TO THE FCC FROM SCHOOL AND LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS

The following members of Organizations Concerned About Rural Education (OCRE) have asked that their organizations be included as signers of this petition:

**American Academy of Physician Assistants
Council for Education Development and Research
Credit Union National Association
National Association of Counties
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Grange
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association**